

Hindu poets for the whiteness of its blossoms, which give a large plain, at some distance, the appearance of a broad river. Both plants are extremely useful to the Indians, who harden the internodal parts of the culm, cut them into implements for writing on their polished paper. From the munji, or culm, of the *sara* was made the maunji, or holy thread, ordained by Menu to form the sacerdotal girdle, in preference even to the cusa-grass. Munji fiber is obtained from the leaf-sheaths; the blades are the sar or sara used in thatching houses and as a paper material; the contained flowering stem is the bind or vind; the panicle or flowering stem is the sirki, til or thili, used in thatching boats, carts, etc.; sentha or kana is the lower, stronger portion of the flowering stem, used in the manufacture of chairs, stools, tables, baskets and screens; and tilak, tilon or ghua are names that denote the flowers. Some of these names, such as munji and sara, have been supposed to denote the products of different species, instead of different parts of one and the same plant, hence has originated much of the confusion that prevails. Sara is used in paper-making and munji as a textile fibre. The much prized munji is strong, elastic and has a wonderful power of enduring moisture without decaying. It is extensively employed in the manufacture of cordage, ropes, the famed Delhi mats, and in the preparation of baskets, etc. Munji mats are reported to be proof against white ants, but are hard on shoe leather, harsh to the foot and fatiguing when walked on for any length of time. These are largely produced in Allahabad, Agra, Delhi, and are traded in all over India, and within recent years have begun to find their way to Europe. In the early spring the old grass is often fired when shortly after a crop of young leaves is produced from the stools, which is much valued as fodder." (Watt's Commercial Products of India, p. 929.)

*Ulmus pumila* L. (Ulmaceae.) 40898. Seeds from China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "The Chinese elm, used all over northern China and Manchuria as an avenue, shade and timber tree. Resists droughts, extremes of heat and cold, and neglect remarkably well; will be a good shade tree for the semi-arid northern regions of the United States. The Chinese carts are mainly constructed from the wood of this tree. Has proven itself to be adapted as an ornamental tree over a very extended territory in the United States." (Meyer.)